2. Barbara L. Craig, *Archival Appraisal: Theory and Practice* (Munich: K. G. Saur, 2004); Frank Boles, *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts,* Archival Fundamentals Series II (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2005).

Internet and Personal Computing Fads. By Mary Ann Bell, Mary Ann Berry, and James L. Van Roekel. New York: Haworth, 2004. 210p. $15.95 softbound (ISBN 0-7890-1772-5); $39.95 hardbound (ISBN 0-7890-1771-7).

I have seldom had a more difficult book to review. If every book has its reader, I struggled mightily to define the intended audience for this one. To deal with the format first, the authors provide a one- to two-page encyclopedia-type article for slightly more than one hundred terms. They do not provide a succinct dictionary definition but rather introduce each term through an extended, chatty discussion. Most often, the authors provide at least one anecdote or amusing fact about the topic. Where appropriate, they give the history and possible future developments in the area under discussion. Each entry then concludes with a brief bibliography, from both print and online sources, of two to five references. As could be expected with a 2004 publication date, the most recent entries appeared in 2003. Quite a few are from much older resources, although this is often appropriate for the many historical topics in the volume. The authors provide very few cross-references, though the twelve-page index provides access to terms embedded in the individual articles.

The "grabber" title does not help very much in clarifying the book's purpose. The authors describe much more than fads, including a broad range of computer and Internet terms. While some are indeed fads ("Nanny Cams" or recent developments such as "Wearable Computing Devices"), the authors also include history ("ENIAC," "History of Computer Hardware," and "Gopher") and general concepts, such as "Mac versus PC," "Technophobia," and "Copyright." The authors do not explain how and why they selected the terms that they did. I could have easily picked a completely different set of one hundred terms for another volume with the same title.

The authors do not help very much in the introduction, where they state that this book "could be useful in high school and academic libraries, public libraries, and for general use by readers wanting to become more familiar with fads, trends, and events relating to computers and the Internet and the language used to describe them" (xiii). As far as libraries, my question would be: "Useful for what?" With the randomness of the entries, I doubt that the volume would have much use as a reference work, though the encyclopedic format suggests this possibility. To get a quick definition, I would instead use an Internet source, such as the Netdictionary (www.netdictionary.com), or one of the many print dictionaries in this area. Another problem for reference use is that many of the entries are already dated. In fact, some of the best entries are the historical ones, although their subject matter certainly does not usually fall into the category of fads. For many of the same reasons, I see little possibility of scholarly use and do not expect to find this title high in the citation counts.

In my quest for the book's essence, the Library of Congress cataloging turned out to be quite helpful. The cataloger did not consider it as a "dictionary" of any sort and put "Fads" way down the list as the fourth subject heading. Instead, the cataloger chose three general subject headings (Information society, Internet—Social aspects, and Microcomputers) to describe its contents. The classification was also social science both in the Library of Congress Classification (HM) and the Dewey Decimal Classification (303) rather than computer science.

One final piece of evidence was the price. At $15.95 for the softcover edition, Haworth is targeting the general reader directly, as the quote above stated, as titles for the library market are normally much more expensive.

As Sherlock Holmes solving the mystery, I finally concluded that what we have here is an excellent bathroom book—that is, an entertaining book meant to be read a few self-contained pages at a time. (Amazingly, I was not able to find a definition of bathroom book, but see Amazon.com for numerous examples.) The authors have compiled more than one hundred entertaining short essays that range from the very specific ("Emoticons") to the very general ("Privacy") and everything in-between. Each entry or essay stands alone so that entries can be read nonsequentially, as the alphabetical order provides no intrinsic value. The focus on amusing facts rather than succinct definitions then makes sense as a way to engage the reader to come back for one more entry or two the next time nature calls.

Even within this limited context, the authors could have been a bit more careful. The entries on "Computer Simulation" and "Virtual Reality" cover the same concept with no cross-reference between them. I also have a hard time understanding why bots would be configured for tasks such as "irradiating [computer] viruses" (13). I hope that the intended term was "eradicate," as I certainly do not want to encounter a radioactive computer virus on my desktop.

I hope that I have not been too harsh. I liked the book and enjoyed reading it on my recent vacation. I do not believe, however, that it is a serious scholarly work. Go ahead and buy it for recreational reading. It costs less than many trashy novels and may provide even more entertainment with a bit of serious knowledge thrown in.—*Robert P. Holley (aa3805@wayne.edu), Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.*

Digital Libraries: Policy, Planning and Practice. Eds. Judith Andrews and Derek Law. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2004. 263p. $89.95 hardbound (ISBN 0-7546-3448-5).

Digital Libraries consists of contributions from a variety of digital library researchers and practitioners, with

representation from both the United States and the United Kingdom. The focus of the book, however, is somewhat unclear, and the quality uneven. Perhaps the biggest drawback to this volume is its lack of timeliness; the rapid development of digital library technology over the last few years is poorly represented here, due to the time required to publish a print volume. The contributions reflect a wide variety of interpretations of the term "digital library," and the brief introductory chapter by the editors does little to frame the discussion toward one definition or as a celebration of the differences. The two remaining introductory chapters, by William Mischo and Stephen Pinfield, focus on the history of digital libraries in the United States and the United Kingdom, providing useful background information to help the reader understand the initiative presented in the rest of the book.

Part 1 is titled "Policy and Planning," and includes five chapters devoted to issues affecting digital libraries as a whole. The highlight of Part 1 is the chapter by Mike Lesk on "How to Pay for Digital Libraries." Lesk analyzes a variety of cost models for digital libraries, considering each with respect to both organizational and user needs. This chapter takes a big-picture view of the cost problem, at all times keeping in mind the rationale for digital library initiatives, rather than just their mechanisms. The chapter by Derek Law similarly addresses the place of digital libraries in the larger information landscape, discussing "Content and Services Issues for Digital Libraries." Law provides a welcome reminder that writings on digital libraries too frequently focus on technology as an end unto itself, rather than "e-collection building and online services" (53). This chapter considers a sample of digital library collections and initiatives in terms of a typology developed by Dan Greenstein under the auspices of the Digital Library Federation, consisting of local digitization projects, data creation projects, third-party data resources, and Internet gateways.

The remaining chapters in Part 1 focus on further specific aspects of digital libraries. Steven Harnad's chapter presents a spirited, if activist, view of the progression in scholarly communication toward an open-access model that seems a bit out of place next to the other contents of the volume. Susan Lazinger writes about "Issues of Policy and Practice in Digital Preservation," discussing selection, stakeholders, methods, and cost of digital preservation, although the text in this chapter interchangeably describes preservation of digital data and digitization as a means of preservation for analog materials. The final chapter in Part 1 covers "Evaluating Electronic Information Services" and is supplied by Pete Dalton and colleagues from the eVALUEd project. A wide range of evaluation methodologies are discussed, providing a broad yet shallow introduction to the topic.

Part 2, "Implementation and Practice," presents five diverse case studies in the development of large-scale digital libraries. Alan Dawson discusses the development of the Glasgow Digital Library in terms of sixteen research areas identified in the digital library literature. Each of these areas is examined for issues and problems, solutions, and lessons learned in Glasgow. Assessments of the practical importance of the issue and relative time spent on it are also included for each. This chapter in particular suffers from the time lag between writing and publishing—the technology described is strikingly out of date. The contribution by Chris Dodd and Judith Andrews, "The Development of UCEEL: A Digital Library for the University of Central England," describes a digital library implementation using and customizing an off-the-shelf system. Edward Fox and colleagues present an overview of the "Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)" project. This chapter presents a clear, concise overview of a high-profile, long-standing project harvesting metadata and re-exposing the aggregated collection to service providers that add value to the pooled metadata. The NDLTD chapter is one of the few to explicitly address the library perspective, along with the following entry, "The Variations and Variations2 Digital Music Library Projects at Indiana University," written collaboratively by Jon Dunn and three colleagues. This chapter outlines the development of digital music initiatives at Indiana University from a ground-breaking system delivering streaming audio in the mid-1990s to a multifaceted digital music library system almost ten years later. Part 2 concludes with "Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Building a Digital Library Program at the Library of Congress" from Diane Nester Kresh. This chapter provides an appropriate wrap-up to this section of the book, tracing the history of digital library initiatives at the Library of Congress, including the American Memory set of projects and the National Digital Library program. Issues of content, services, and delivery in the digital domain as vital to the notion of a library are examined. The section on lessons learned is particularly insightful, despite an error referring to metadata harvesting via the OAIS (Open Archival Information System Reference Model(, rather than the OAI (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting).

Part 3, titled "The Way Ahead," strangely contains only a single chapter, describing a single issue. Mel Collier asks "After the Digital Library Decade: Where Are the Next Frontiers for Library Innovation?" Yet this chapter only settles on one frontier, labeled here as "e-learning." While digital libraries pose tremendous potential for transforming instruction, this volume misses an opportunity to synthesize the extensive and relevant information presented in the bulk of the text into concrete lessons for the future.—*Jen Riley (jenlrile@indiana.edu), Indiana University–Bloomington*